

REMARKS

Claims 31, 33-35, 38 and 43-46 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 31, 33-35 and 38 are amended, claims 42-46 are added and claims 1-2, 7, 10, 13, 16-30, 32, 36-37 and 39-42 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for claims 42-46 is provided at least at paragraphs [0023]-[0030].

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Entry is thus proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 32-34 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, features of allowable dependent claim 32 are incorporated into independent claim 31 and similar features from dependent claims 36-37 are incorporated into independent claim 35. The applied references do not teach or suggest the features of each of independent claims 31 and 35. Thus, each of independent claims 31 and 35 define patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 31, 33-35, 38 and 43-46 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the

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application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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